

1 48. A process for enhancing an immune response in a companion animal comprising the step of feeding said animal a diet containing an effective amount of a combination of vitamin E, lutein and β -carotene.

2 49. A process for optimizing immune cells in a dog comprising the step of feeding said dog a diet containing an effective amount of a combination of vitamin E, lutein and β -carotene.

A 350. A process for optimizing vaccine recognition in a dog comprising the step of feeding said dog a diet containing an effective amount of a combination of vitamin E, lutein and β -carotene.

4 51. The process of claim 48, wherein said companion animal is a dog.

5 52. A pet food product having an effect of enhancing immune response in a pet, said pet food product comprising a pet food composition containing an amount of vitamin E, lutein and β -carotene sufficient to enhance the immune response of said pet.

6 53. A pet food product for enhancing immune response in a pet, said pet food product comprising a pet food composition which composition comprises vitamin E in an amount of about 15 IU/400kcal of metabolizable energy intake (MEI), β -carotene in an amount of 0.01-1.5 mg/400kcal MEI and lutein in an amount of 0.05-1.5 mg/400kcal MEI.

7 54. A pet food product for enhancing immune response in a pet, said pet food product comprising a pet food composition which composition comprises an effective amount of a combination of vitamin E, lutein and β -carotene, and further comprises about 30% crude protein, about 10-20% fat with the balance being carbohydrate which comprises dietary fiber.